



Crop Progress and Condition

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Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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Agricultural News: Days suitable for fieldwork were 6.6. Field activities for the week included harvesting peanuts, corn for silage, and corn for grain, planting cover crops, and feeding hay. Weather conditions were drier; temperatures were down and precipitation amounts decreased this week, many locations had no rain. High temperatures were in the 80s, and lows were in the 40s and 50s. Temperatures were one to three degrees below normal.

SOIL MOISTURE for week ending 09/20/15

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	%	%	%	%
Topsoil	17	39	44	-
Subsoil	13	42	44	1

- Represents zero.

CROP and LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS for week ending 09/20/15

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	%	%	%	%	%
Corn	1	3	21	57	18
Cotton	-	-	22	75	3
Hay, Alfalfa	-	17	35	45	3
Hay, Other	3	27	30	37	3
Peanuts	-	-	26	69	5
Soybeans	1	12	31	50	6
Pasture	7	21	38	29	5
Livestock	1	7	24	55	13

-Represents zero.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 09/20/15

Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Apples harvested	72	64	40	-
Barley planted	10	3	12	15
Corn dented	93	90	90	93
Corn mature	81	74	75	79
Corn for grain harvested	48	34	36	51
Corn for silage harvested	79	71	83	83
Cotton bolls opening	65	49	53	60
Peanuts harvested	5	-	-	-

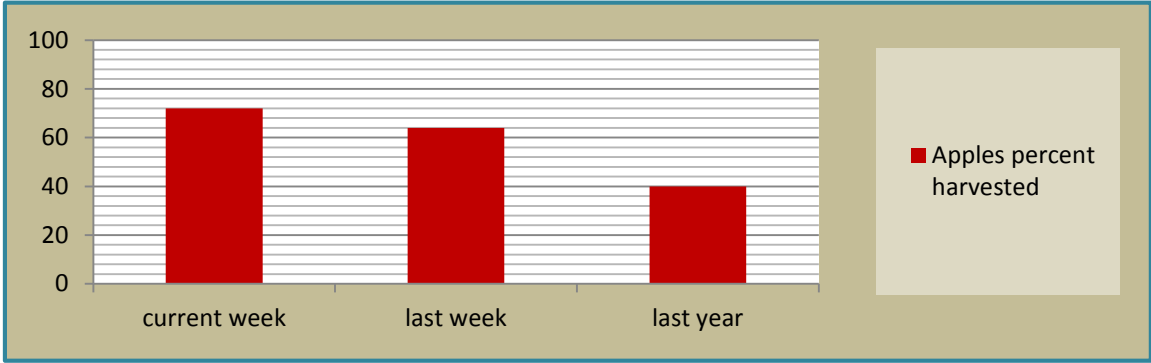
- Represents data not available.

CROP PROGRESS for week ending 09/20/15

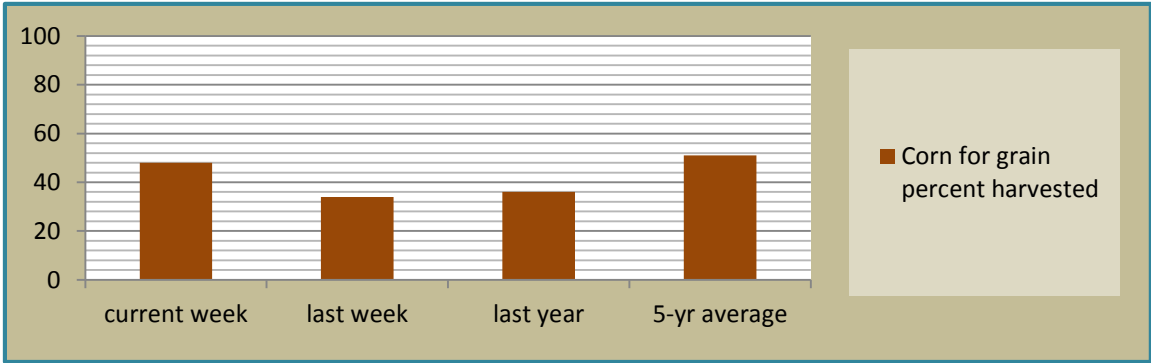
Crop Stage	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Yr Avg
	%	%	%	%
Soybeans setting pods	93	89	95	97
Soybeans dropping leaves	28	18	17	23
Tobacco, Flue-cured cut	72	62	66	64

- Represents data not available.

APPLES HARVESTED for week ending 09/20/15



CORN FOR GRAIN HARVESTED for week ending 09/20/15



Weather Summary- For the week ending September 20, 2015

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Sept. 19	Mar. 1 to Sept. 19 norm	Last Week	Since Sept. 1	Sept. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	80	49	87	42	65	-3	3580	3372	0.00	0.16	-2.12	24.90	-7.02
Norfolk	79	62	84	56	71	-2	4178	3732	0.00	3.18	0.56	36.30	1.40
Richmond	83	57	86	52	70	-1	4140	3641	0.16	1.98	-0.49	34.68	1.97
Roanoke	81	51	87	48	66	-2	3770	NA	0.00	1.10	-1.34	32.51	0.64
Wash/Dulles	83	52	87	48	67	-1	3602	NA	0.00	0.32	-2.14	27.62	-3.06

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. NA-Not available. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY – Comments are based on remarks made by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

WESTERN

BOTETOURT (Kate Lawrence)

Extremely dry, late season soybeans are going to be a total loss. Plenty of cattle producers are feeding hay because pastures are completely dried up.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Dry and warm conditions continued to deplete soil moisture levels this week. Some late season hay was made this week but fall re-growth and pasture stockpiling has been curtailed due to dry conditions.

CENTRAL

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Lack of rain this past week has us back in very dry soil conditions. As of now this is not a factor, but we will need rain soon to plant many grasses and small grains.

CHESTERFIELD (Charlotte Maxwell)

We haven't had any rain in over 7 days.

EASTERN

ACCOMACK (Theresa Long)

Corn is 85% harvested. One inch of rain seen this week; early soybeans are dropping leaves and double crop beans are setting pods.

CHARLES CITY (John Allison)

Corn harvest is better than expected. Shorter day corn did well. Longer day corn is not as good because the hot weather affected pollination.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Corn harvest continued at a very good pace. It appears that the increase in on-farm storage over the past few years has allowed the grain elevators to keep up with the harvest of a very good crop. A few full-season soybeans were also harvested. Some farmers also planted cover crops. Due to low small grain prices, acreage for grain will be down this fall, and more cover crop acres will be planted.

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

The area received much needed rain early this week, but it is still dry. Corn harvest continues; yields are good, the prices not so much. Soybeans are taking it on the chin. We need a good soaking rain for some late planted double crop soybeans. Vegetable harvest continues. Haymaking is affected.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

With a warm, dry week, hay and corn silage harvest went at a feverish pace. Pasture conditions are declining quickly with limited moisture over the past several weeks. Cattle are starting to be fed, or moved to markets to reduce pressure on fall pasture.

SMYTH (Andy Overby)

A combination of a lack of rainfall and softening of cattle markets continues to aid in the decline of pasture and the introduction of hay feeding. Farms are holding cattle longer hoping for markets to rebound, so the added numbers of cattle have weakened many pastures across the county and region.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

Late cutting of hay is in progress. Soybeans are dropping leaves. Flue cured tobacco is being harvested, cured, baled, taken to pick up points, and fields are being prepared for planting small grains as the last of the tobacco is harvested.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

A good work week with corn harvest going great. Peanut digging well underway with peanut combines rolling. Cotton defoliant is being applied with cotton pickers ready to start in the next few days.

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY (Roy D. Flanagan)

Dry weather has been the normal for quite some time. Corn harvest has benefited from this while the soybean crop has suffered.